

# Ship of the desert in the city

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For a first timer inside an alley behind Bangladesh Bank, you would be taken aback by a sign-board that reads 'camel milk for sale'.

As you move in through the arched entrance you would find yourself beside a camel farm, the only one of its kind in Bangladesh.

Samrat Milk Products (SMP), that originated in February, 2004, results from the initiative of a group of individuals, including Lt. Col. (Retd) Md. Mozammel Hossain, after gathering information from websites related to FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation) and Saso (Saudi Arabian Standards Organization), that spoke of the benefits of camel milk.

"We bought 10 camels from the Gabtoli Haat and reared them," said Hossain, who is in charge. The information collected and a sample of camel's milk was given to the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) after which approval was granted for the sale of camel milk. BSTI

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documents were at hand for any person to see.

Information showed that camel milk has a high concentration of volatile acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids that are essential for human nutrition. Its vitamin C level is three times that of cow milk. The nutritious strength of camel milk is also proven by the fact that nomads in the desert -- the camel's natural habitat where water and vegetation are scarce -- rely on its milk for sustenance and are yet healthy and vigorous.

Camel milk is used as a therapy for drowsiness, jaundice, and

problems of the spleen, tuberculosis, asthma, anaemia, piles and improved liver function. It also works as a laxative for people who are unaccustomed to drinking it and has slimming properties for obesity.

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Initially SMP distributed free

milk samples to the madrashas, orphanages, courts and offices for product promotion and now the milk is sold at Tk 240 per litre due to increasing demand. This correspondent was offered a cup of camel's milk.

At present 25 among the 44 camels on the farm are pregnant. The breeding season for camels is between January and March. They are milked once in two hours, after the babies are fed. The milk is then boiled through a pasteurisation machine, bottled and then kept in freezers. It can also be drunk fresh.



Hossain could not specify about the origin of the camels but a particular camel that had the Hindu symbol 'Om' engraved on its body implying they could be of Indian origin. "They could be Indian, Pakistani or Arab," said a caretaker.

Each camel has a nameplate and birth record, as they are required for medical check ups. Qaswa, a 15-year-old male named after the camel of the

prophet Muhammad, is the oldest in the group and their leader. Biplob, who would have his second birthday this year, is the first baby to be born on the farm. "Perhaps he is the first camel to be born in Bangladesh," said Mozammel. Boishakhi has been named as such as she was born on Pahela Boishakh this year.

The camels are given viral injections every year at a cost of Tk 600 each. The first symptom of

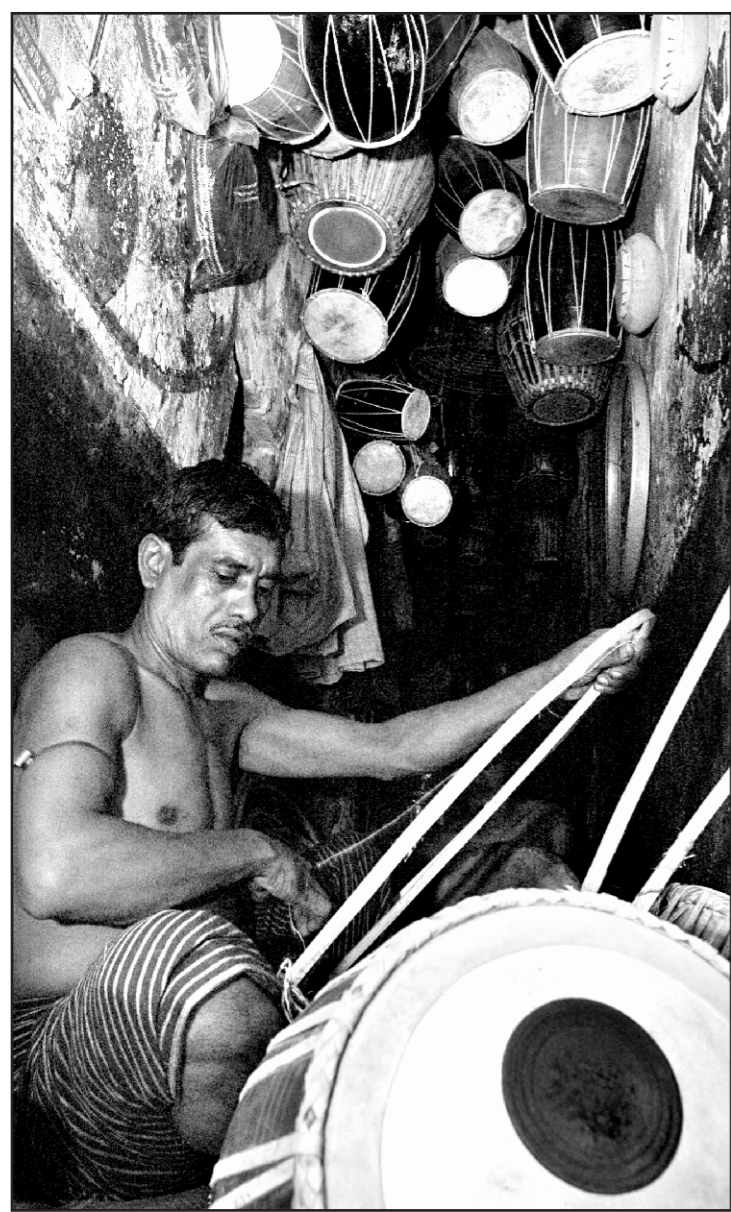
a camel's illness is the lack of appetite after which the body temperature is taken. They are made to run twice a day for physical fitness with all the camels following their leader in a single line.

"Initially we would make them run in the alley but since it caused traffic congestion we have to make them run within the farm," said the caretaker.

He also said they dislike their

once-a-week baths. One of their characteristics is that they face the direction of the sun. They face the east in the morning and gradually turn towards the west as the sun sets. Visitors occasionally drop by to see the camels.

"We intend to increase the present number by 100 and we have additional space at Dewanbagh for this purpose," said Hossain.



**The trade of the 'mridanga' (a special kind of drum) used especially while singing Baul songs, is desperately seeking ways for survival. An artisan at Shankhari Bazar of old town continues to make them despite fading need for the instrument.**

STAR PHOTO

## Some trying to make rules ineffective

FROM PAGE 25 amount in bribes, said an official.

Abdul Awal, president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) denied the allegation that some of members of the association exerted pressure on the government to hold back effectiveness of the new rules.

"Rehab is in favour of the new rules and it is an excellent work to meet the demand of time and envisages city development upholding welfare of the society," he said.

The purpose of special arrangement under the rules of 1996 was to clear backlog of the present building plans, Awal said. "But the opportunity is being abused," he added.

The manner in which the effectiveness of the old rules was brought back 20 days after the new ones were gazetted was unsystematic, Awal said. The new rules have an in-built mechanism to make it effective

and provide rigorous punishment against one who flouts them.

A total of 17 agencies under One Window Service Cell will approve development plans and construction designs within 45 days.

Aggrieved builders will have an option of appealing to the Urban Development Committee (UDC) if the Building Approval Committee (BAC) resort to any malpractice and fails to approve the design within time limit.

The UDC will have authority to hold public hearing on complaints received regarding irregularity in building work.

A builder has to seek plan approval in phases; first for foundation development and then for structural construction.

Once the groundwork is completed up to plinth level, builder has to inform the Rajuk to obtain approval for construction.

In case the authorities fail to grant permission within seven

days, the builder will automatically be authorised to start construction.

Engineers involved in constructions will issue completion certificate endorsing that building has been put up according to plans approved.

The builder then has to obtain an occupancy certificate to use the building and has to renew the certificate every five years to ensure that a building is used for the authorised purpose.

New rules require the owner of a building to keep provisions for ram and special toilet for the disabled. It also requires builders to present detailed architectural and constructional designs of a building to obtain approval.

It contains preventive measures against constructions that may harm architectural heritage.

It clearly specifies land use ratio, detailed structural plan, open space, nature of occu-

pancy, and width of adjoining roads for a building construction. It defines car parking provisions as per the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and describes the manner of land use planning with guidelines for residential, commercial, educational, health service and industrial uses.

It also requires coordination of geo-technical engineering (soil test), architectural plan and structural design for construction.

Architect Iqbal Habib, executive Member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said that the rules should come into effect immediately suggesting that already completed buildings should be made obliged to obtain completion and occupancy certificates under the rules.

Terming the rules as a multi-disciplinary product, Rajuk's chief engineer Emdadul Islam said: "The sooner it come into effect, the happier I will be."

## Rickshaw lifting

FROM PAGE 25

owner and the gang.

The brokers maintain charts of stolen rickshaws with serial numbers and photo albums of the lifters to help the owners recognise the lifters quickly.

Rickshaw pullers and owners at Mirpur-1, Pallabi, Mohammadpur, Gabtoli and Khilkhet alleged that the police officers and the politically influential persons often harass the rickshaw owners if any one of them stand against the rickshaw lifters.

The rickshaw owners' associations have long been demanding action by the authorities for their security. Bangladesh Rickshaw Van Owners' and Pullers' Association even tried to evict the lifters' hideouts recently but following assurance from Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mizanur Rahman, they called off their programme.

The DMP authorities said they conducted several drives against the rickshaw lifters but it was very hard for them to continue it due to shortage of manpower.

## healthouting, taxicab & train timing

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660  
**BARDEM** 8616641-50  
**Cholera Hospital (ICDDR)** 8811751-60  
**CMH (Dhaka)** 9870011  
**Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital** 8628612-6  
**Holy Family Red Crescent** 8311721-5  
**Islamia Eye Hospital** 9119315, 8112156  
**Lion Eye Hospital** 9129127  
**Medinova Medical Services** 8620353-4  
**Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd** 9007873, 8015444  
**Mitford Hospital** 7319002-6  
**National Heart Foundation Hospital** 8014914, 8010491, 8021399  
**Orthopedic Hospital** 9112150

**Salimullah Medical College Hospital** 7319002-6  
**Samorita Hospital** 9131901  
**Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital** 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800  
**Shishu Hospital** 8116061-2, 9119119

#### Clinics

**Akand Clinic** 8015855, 8022581  
**Aroggaya Niketan** 9333730  
**BAVS Maternity** 8016413-4  
**Dhaka Monorog Clinic** 9005050  
**Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic** 8822738, 8812992  
**Ibn Sina Clinic** 8119513  
**Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd** 8912929  
**Judi Maternity** 9113322  
**Paltan Poly Clinic** 9557385  
**Retina Eye Center (Clinic)** 9884588, 9884566  
**Shishu Bekash Clinic** 9351625

**The Eye Clinic** 9333238

#### Blood Bank

**Red Crescent Centre-** 9116563  
**Sandhani (DMCH)-** 8624040  
**Sandhani (SMCH)-** 7310061, 7310061, 7319022  
**Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-** 8626812-9

#### Eye Bank

**Sandhani International Eye Bank-** 8614040

#### Ambulances For

#### Dead Body

**Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)** 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,  
**Al-Markajul Islam** 9127867,

### MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday  
 Elephant Road-Friday  
 Bishal Center-Friday  
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday  
 Polwell Market-Friday  
 BCS Computer City-Friday  
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.  
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday  
 Stadium Market-Friday  
 Bangabazar Market-Friday  
 National Museum-Thursday  
 Ahsan Manzil-Thursday.  
 New Market-Tuesday  
 Gausia Market-Tuesday  
 Mouchak Market-Sunday  
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday  
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday  
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### TAXI CAB

#### Passenger's Complaint

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.  
**Cab Salida Ltd.** 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405  
**Cosmo Cab Ltd.** 9112959, 8127191,  
**Nitol Cab Co. Ltd.** 8125285, 01711-621953  
**JBS Cab Ltd.** 0191-364575  
**Coal Cab Ltd** 8130485, 01711-826731  
**Limujin Cab Ltd.** 9318351, 9337204  
**Multi-Cab Ltd.** 9666502, 9570740  
**Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd.** 8624742,  
 8624741  
**Orion Taxi Cab Ltd.** 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144  
**Reliance Cab Ltd.** 9339563-4  
**RMS Cab Ltd.** 8118536  
**Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd.** 731083, 01711-458740  
**Tinni Cab Ltd.** 9662009, 01711-645257  
**Telex Cab Ltd.** 7202201  
**Aliif Cab Co. Ltd.** 0191-357838, 83116948  
**Cab One Ltd.** 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178  
**United Cab Ltd.** 7510166, 01711-

#### TRAIN TIMING

**Subarna Express**  
**Mahanagar Prabhati**  
**Mahanagar Godhuli**  
**Turna**  
**Parabat Express**  
**Joyantika Express**  
**Upaban Express**  
**Tista Express**  
**Ekata Express**  
**Upakul Express**  
**Agnibeena Express**

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

348474  
**Ulka Express Ltd.** 9359885, 01711-313554  
**Cab Bangla Ltd.** 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644  
**Cab i Ltd.** 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585  
**Cab line Ltd.** 8321162  
**Capital Cab Co. Ltd.** 9352847-9  
**Classic Cab Ltd.** 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415  
**Comport Cab Ltd.** 8817610-4  
**Cab Express Ltd.** 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm  
 Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm  
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm  
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am  
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm  
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm  
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am  
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm  
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15  
 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am  
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

### LIBRARY & INFO

#### Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407  
**Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Ford Foundation-** 8116133  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**Information Resource Center, The American Center-** 8813440-4, 9886395-9  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8850141-2  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412  
**Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB)** 9330081-4